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TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/629,433
	Filing Date	July 29, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Michael J. Connor
	Art Unit	1723
	Examiner Name	Roger D. Betts, Jr.
	Attorney Docket Number	4191-00318
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		9

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PATENT
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1723

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appln. No. : 10/629,433
Applicant : Michael J. Connor et al.
Filed : July 29, 2003
Title : Filter with Support
Columns
TC/A.U. : 1723
Examiner : Roger D. Betts, Jr.
Docket No. : 4191-00318

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RESPONSE AND REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

Commissioner of Patents
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Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action mailed January 12, 2006, applicant respectfully requests clarification and reconsideration.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, page 2, clause 1, claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Pett U.S. Patent 4,331,535. The Examiner notes:

In view of Claim 1, Pett (535) discloses a filter comprising first and second axially spaced end caps (Fig. 2, #1 and #9) with a filter media (Fig. 2, #2) extending axially between said end caps extending in a close-loop, wherein at least one column extending axially between said end caps and spaced from said axial opening for receiving a post from